

# **WORKFORCE SAFETY & INSURANCE**

## **INVESTMENT POLICY STATEMENT**

### **1. PLAN CHARACTERISTICS AND FUND CONSTRAINTS.**

North Dakota Workforce Safety & Insurance (WSI) is an exclusive state workers' compensation fund (Fund), which exists for the mutual benefit of North Dakota employers and employees. The assets of the Fund are utilized to pay benefits to injured workers or their survivors.

Section 65-04-01 of the North Dakota Century Code requires WSI to establish premium rates for funding sufficiently high to provide for:

1. The payment of the expenses of administration of the organization,
2. The payment of compensation according to the provisions and schedules contained in this title, and
3. The maintenance by the Fund of adequate reserves and surplus to the end that it may be kept at all times in an entirely solvent condition.

### **2. RESPONSIBILITIES AND DISCRETION OF THE STATE INVESTMENT BOARD (SIB).**

The WSI Board is charged by law under NDCC 21-10-02.1 with the responsibility of establishing policies on investment goals and asset allocation of the Fund. The SIB is charged with implementing these policies and asset allocation and investing the assets of the Fund in a manner consistent with the prudent investor rule as provided in NDCC 21-10-07. The Fund must be invested exclusively for the benefit of the members and their beneficiaries in accordance with this investment policy.

At the discretion of the SIB, the Fund's assets may be pooled with other funds. In pooling funds, the SIB may establish whatever asset class pools it deems necessary with specific quality, diversification, restrictions, and performance objectives appropriate to the prudent investor rule and the objectives of the funds participating in the pools.

The SIB may delegate investment responsibility to professional money managers. Where a money manager has been retained, the SIB's role in determining investment strategy and security selection is supervisory not advisory.

The SIB is responsible for establishing criteria, procedures, and making decisions with respect to hiring, keeping, and terminating money managers. SIB investment responsibility also includes selecting performance measurement services, consultants, report formats, and frequency of meetings with managers.

The SIB will implement changes to this policy as promptly as is prudent.

### **3. INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES.**

The investment goal of WSI is to supplement premiums, through various investments, to accomplish its statutory obligations.

The following investment objectives are established as of the date adopted and are in keeping with the fiduciary requirements as set forth in federal and state law and as expected by the members. WSI expects to receive results from the SIB that are consistent with the policies included herein. These objectives and guidelines will provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the investment program over time. It is clearly understood these objectives and standards are to be viewed over the long term and have been established after full consideration of all factors set out in the Statement of Investment Policy.

The operating and liquidity needs of WSI are generally to be met by the cash equivalents allocation.

Funds in excess of those required for operating and liquidity needs will be invested in domestic equity, international equity, real estate and fixed income securities. The objective of these assets is to obtain the maximum total return on investments consistent with safety of principal on funds in excess of those required for operating and liquidity needs.

### **4. STANDARDS OF INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE.**

The Fund's investment objectives and characteristics give rise to an asset allocation that is considered to have greater than a 50% probability of achieving the results desired. For evaluation purposes, the following performance targets will apply:

- a. The Fund should produce a rate of return that at least matches that of the policy portfolio, which is comprised of 9.75% S&P 500 domestic stock index, 3.25% Russell 2000 domestic stock, 8% MSCI EAFE international stock index, 50% Lehman Aggregate bond index, 22% Lehman Treasury Inflation Protected bond index, 6% NCREIF Total real estate index, and 1% 90-day T-bills.
- b. The annual standard deviation of total returns for the Fund should not exceed that of the policy portfolio.
- c. Over 10 year and longer time periods the Fund should match or exceed the expected 5.75% rate of return assumed in the asset/liability study. Expected risk for the period, measured by standard deviation, is 5.65%.

### **5. POLICY AND GUIDELINES**

The asset allocation policy developed herein is based on an evaluation of WSI's ability and willingness to assume investment risk in light of WSI's financial goals and objectives. In recognition of these goals and objectives, coupled with a liability-sensitive asset allocation study conducted by Callan Associates in May, 2005, the following asset allocation is deemed appropriate for WSI. The portfolio mix shall be in accordance with the following asset allocation and periodically reviewed by WSI.

Large Cap Domestic Equity	9.75%
Small Cap Domestic Equity	3.25%
International Equity	8.00%
Domestic Fixed Income	50.00%
Inflation Protected Assets	22.00%
Real Estate	6.00%
Cash Equivalents	1.00%

Rebalancing of the Fund to this target will be done in accordance with the SIB's rebalancing policy, but not less than annually.

While the SIB is responsible for establishing specific quality, diversification, restrictions, and performance objectives for the investment vehicles in which the Fund's assets will be invested, it is understood that:

- a. Futures and options may be used to hedge or replicate underlying index exposure, but not for speculation.
- b. Derivatives use will be monitored to ensure that undue risks are not taken by the money managers.
- c. No transaction shall be made which threatens the tax exempt status of the Fund.
- d. All assets will be held in custody by the SIB's master custodian or such other custodians as are acceptable to the SIB.
- e. No unhedged short sales or speculative margin purchases shall be made.
- f. Social investing is prohibited unless it meets the Exclusive Benefit Rule and it can be substantiated that the investment must provide an equivalent or superior rate of return for a similar investment with a similar time horizon and similar risk.

For the purpose of this document, Social Investing is defined as *"The investment or commitment of public pension fund money for the purpose of obtaining an effect other than a maximized return to the intended beneficiaries."*

- g. Economically targeted investing is prohibited unless the investment meets the Exclusive Benefit Rule.

For the purpose of this document economically targeted investment is defined as an investment designed to produce a competitive rate of return commensurate with risk involved, as well as to create collateral economic benefits for a targeted geographic area, group of people, or sector of the economy.

Also, for the purpose of this document, the Exclusive Benefit Rule is met if the following four conditions are satisfied:

- (1) The cost does not exceed the fair market value at the time of investment.
- (2) The investment provides the Fund with an equivalent or superior rate of return for a similar investment with a similar time horizon and similar risk.
- (3) Sufficient liquidity is maintained in the Fund to permit distributions in accordance with the terms of the plan.
- (4) The safeguards and diversity that a prudent investor would adhere to are present.

Where investment characteristics, including yield, risk, and liquidity are equivalent, the Board's policy favors investments which will have a positive impact on the economy of North Dakota.

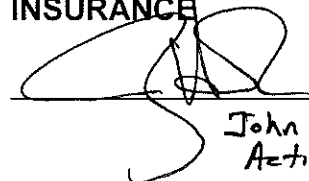
## 6. EVALUATION AND REVIEW.

Investment management of the Fund will be evaluated against the Fund's investment objectives and investment performance standards. Evaluation will be conducted quarterly by the SIB through its review of funds participating in the Insurance Trust.

Money managers will be evaluated by the SIB quarterly. In-state meetings will be held with the money managers at least annually.

Approved by:

**WORKFORCE SAFETY &  
INSURANCE**



John Halverson  
Acting CEO

Date: 8/31/07

**STATE INVESTMENT BOARD**



Steve Cochrane  
Executive Director/CIO, RIO

Date: 9-4-07